

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1113

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07298

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, UK

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIA: WHEREABOUTS RAS MENGESHA SEYOU

1. WELL-KNOWN BRITISH JOURNALIST SPECIALIZING ON AFRICA, COLIN LEGUM, TOLD EMBOFF THAT RAS MENGESHA SEYOU IS CURRENTLY IN LONDON. LEGUM HAS SEEN RAS MENGESHA, AND IN ANSWER TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION, SAID RAS MENGESHA WOULD PROBABLY NOT RETURN TO KHARTOUM, AS HE WAS PLACED UNDER TOO MANY RESTRICTIONS BY SUDANESE GOVERNMENT. LEGUM BELIEVES HE WILL SPEND MOST OF HIS TIME IN LONDON OR ROME. AGAIN, ACCORDING TO LEGUM, RAS MENGESHA, UNLIKE GREAT MAJORITY OF ETHIOPIAN REFUGEES HERE, HAS NO FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

2. LEGUM KEENLY INTERESTED IN ETHIOPIA, WELL INFORMED ON ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS AND PERSONALITIES AND HAS FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH MANY ETHIOPIAN EXILES. WHEN EMBOFF ASKED HIM WHETHER ANY OF EXILES WERE PLANNING TO FORM GOVERNMENT IN EXILE, LEGUM SAID DEFINITELY NOT BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY FACTIONS AMONG THEM HE DID NOT THINK THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO COME TOGETHER TO FORM SUCH A GOVERNMENT.

RICHARDSON

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